## **Education of students with disabilities**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that all children have available to them a free and appropriate education designed to meet their unique needs. Changes in the percentage of total public elementary and secondary enrollment and the distribution of students with disabilities affect the level of effort required of educators and policymakers to comply with the current law and help them to forecast the need for future resources.

- The number of students participating in federal programs for children with disabilities has increased at a faster rate than total public school enrollment. Between 1977 and 1995, the number of students who participated in federal programs for children with disabilities increased 47 percent, while total public school enrollment decreased by 2 percent (see supplemental table 46-1).
- In 1995, children with disabilities receiving services in federally supported programs comprised 12 percent of all students enrolled in public schools (grades K-12), up from 8 percent in 1977.
- Between 1977 and 1995, the percentage of children with specific learning disabilities as a percentage of total public K-12 enrollment rose from 2 to 6 percent, while those with speech or language impairments or mental retardation decreased slightly.
- In 1992, males with specific learning disabilities represented 7 percent of total public school enrollment, while females with this type of disability accounted for 3 percent (see supplemental table 46-2).

Children from birth to age 21 who were served by federally supported programs for students with disabilities, by type of disability: Selected school years ending 1977–95

Type of disability	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1994 <sup>1</sup>	1995 <sup>2</sup>
			As a per	centage	of total	public K	-12 enro	ollment			
All disabilities	8.3	9.1	10.1	10.8	11.0	11.0	11.3	11.6	12.0	12.2	12.3
Specific learning disabilities	1.8	2.7	3.6	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.7
Speech or language impairments	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Mental retardation	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
Serious emotional disturbance	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Preschool disabled <sup>3</sup>	( <sup>4</sup> )	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2					
				1	Percenta	age distr	ibution				
All disabilities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Specific learning disabilities	21.6	29.1	35.3	40.9	42.5	43.8	43.7	44.7	45.9	45.6	46.1
Speech or language impairments	35.3	31.2	28.2	26.6	26.1	26.0	21.3	20.7	19.4	18.9	18.8
Mental retardation	26.0	23.2	20.0	17.8	16.1	14.7	12.4	11.2	10.1	10.1	10.5
Serious emotional disturbance	7.7	7.7	8.4	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.3	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.9
Preschool disabled <sup>3</sup>	( <sup>4</sup> )	8.7	9.3	10.4	10.9	9.6					

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Revised from previously published figures.

NOTE: This analysis includes students who were served under Chapter 1 of the ECIA and Part B of IDEA.

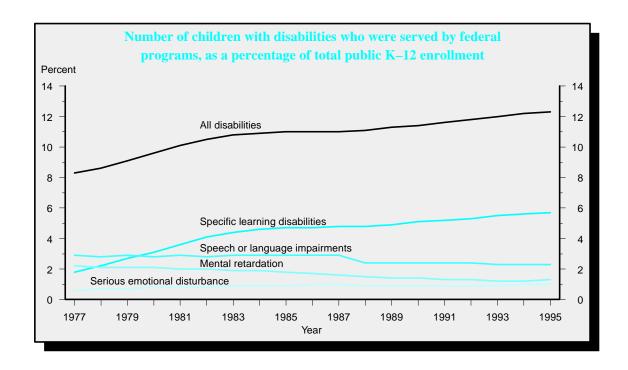
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 1996.

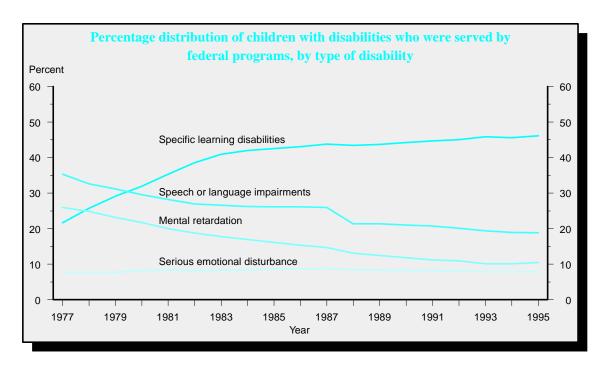
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data for 1995 are for children aged 3-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Includes preschool children aged 3-5 who were served under Chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) and those aged 0-5 served under Part B of the IDEA.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Prior to the 1987–88 school year, preschool disabled students were included in the counts by disabling condition. Beginning in the 1987–88 school year, states were no longer required to report preschool students (0–5 years) with disabilities by disabling condition.

Children from birth to age 21 who were served by federally supported programs for students with disabilities, by type of disability: School years ending 1977–95





NOTE: This analysis includes students who were served under Chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) and Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Data for 1995 are for children aged 3-21.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 1996.

Children from birth to age 21 who were served by federally supported programs for students with disabilities, by type of disability: Selected school years ending 1977–95

students with disabilities, i	<del>y yp</del>	, or ur	Sabiii	ty. De	iccicu	SCHOOL	n year	5 CHU		777 30	
Type of disability	1977	1979	1981	1983	1985	1987	1989	1991	1993	1994'	1995²
		A	s a perc	entage	of total	public	K-12 en	rollmen	ıt		
All disabilities	8.3	9.1	10.1	10.8	11.0	11.0	11.3	11.6	12.0	12.2	12.3
Specific learning disabilities	1.8	2.7	3.6	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.2	5.5	5.6	5.7
Speech or language impairments	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Mental retardation	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
Serious emotional disturbance	0.6	0.7	8.0	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Preschool disabled	(,)	(,)	(,)	(,)	(,)	(,)	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2
				F	Percenta	age dist	ribution				
All disabilities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Specific learning disabilities	21.6	29.1	35.3	40.9	42.5	43.8	43.7	44.7	45.9	45.6	46.1
Speech or language impairments	35.3	31.2	28.2	26.6	26.1	26.0	21.3	20.7	19.4	18.9	18.8
Mental retardation	26.0	23.2	20.0	17.8	16.1	14.7	12.4	11.2	10.1	10.1	10.5
Serious emotional disturbance	7.7	7.7	8.4	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.3	8.2	7.8	7.8	7.9
Preschool disabled	(,)	(,)	(,)	(,)	(,)	(,)	8.7	9.3	10.4	10.9	9.6

<sup>\*</sup> Revisea from previously published figures.

Beginning in the 1987-88 school year, states were no longer required to report preschool students (0-5 years) with disabilities by disabling condition.

NOTE: This analysis includes students who were served under Chapter 1 of the ECIA and Part B of the IDEA.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Renabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 1996.

Data for 1995 are for children aged 3-21.

<sup>\*</sup> Includes preschool children aged 3–5 who were served under Chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) and those aged 0–5 served under Part B of the IDEA.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Prior to the 1987-88 school year, preschool disabled students were included in the counts by disabling condition.

Table 46-1 Number of children who were served by federally supported programs for students with disabilities, by type of disability: School years ending 1977–95

Type of disability	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
			Nur	nber serv	/ed (in t	nousand	s)			
All disabilities	3,692	3,751	3,889	4,005	4,142	4,198	4,255	4,298	4,315	4,317
Specific learning disabilities	796	964	1,130	1,276	1,462	1,622	1,741	1,806	1,832	1,862
Speech or language impairmer	1,302	1,223	1,214	1,186	1,168	1,135	1,131	1,128	1,126	1,125
Mental retardation	959	933	901	869	829	786	757	727	694	660
Serious emotional disturbance	283	288	300	329	346	339	352	361	372	375
Hearing impairments	87	85	85	80	79	75	73	72	69	66
Orthopedic impairments	87	87	70	66	58	58	57	56	56	57
Other health impairments	141	135	105	106	98	79	50	53	68	57
Visual impairments	38	35	32	31	31	29	28	29	28	27
Multiple disabilities	_	_	50	60	68	71	63	65	69	86
Deaf-blindness	_	_	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Preschool disabled <sup>1</sup>	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)

Type of disability	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994°	1995
			Numbe	r served	(in thous	ands)			
All disabilities	4,374	4,447	4,544	4,641	4,762	4,949	5,125	5,318	5,440
Specific learning disabilities	1,914	1,928	1,987	2,050	2,130	2,234	2,354	2,424	2,508
Speech or language impairmer	1,136	953	967	973	985	997	996	1,005	1,022
Mental retardation	643	582	564	548	534	538	519	536	570
Serious emotional disturbance	383	373	376	381	390	399	401	413	428
Hearing impairments	65	56	56	57	58	60	60	63	65
Orthopedic impairments	57	47	47	48	49	51	52	56	61
Other health impairments	52	45	43	52	55	58	65	82	106
Visual impairments	26	22	23	22	23	24	23	24	25
Multiple disabilities	97	77	85	86	96	97	102	108	89
Deaf-blindness	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
Preschool disabled <sup>1</sup>	(²)	363	394	422	441	484	531	582	524

<sup>Not available.</sup> 

Beginning in the 1987-88 school year, states were no longer required to report preschool students (0-5 years) with disabilities by disabling condition.

NOTE: This analysis includes students who were served under Chapter 1 of the

ECIA and Part B of IDEA. Counts are based on reports from the 50 states and the District of Columbia only (i.e., figures from the U.S. territories are not included). Increases since 1987–88 are due in part to new legislation enacted in fall 1986, which mandates public school appropriate education services for all disabled children aged 3–5. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Tables 1.3, AA1, and AA2; and National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 1996, table 51.

Includes preschool children aged 3-5 who were served under Chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) and those aged 0-5 who were served under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), respectively.

Figure 1987–88 school year, preschool disabled students were included in the counts by disabling condition.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Revised from previously published figures.

Data for 1995 are for children aged 3-21.

Table 46-2 Participation in special education programs as a percentage of total public school enrollment, by selected types of disability, sex, and race/ethnicity of student: School years ending 1986, 1988, 1990, and 1992

Type of disability	1986	1988	1990	1992
		Total		
All disabilities listed	6.2	6.3	6.8	7.3
Specific learning disabilities	4.3	4.4	4.8	5.3
Mental retardation*	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Serious emotional disturbance	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
		Male		
All disabilities listed	8.2	8.6	9.2	9.7
Specific learning disabilities	5.8	6.2	6.6	7.2
Mental retardation*	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.5
Serious emotional disturbance	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1
		Femal	e	
All disabilities listed	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.7
Specific learning disabilities	2.6	2.7	3.0	3.3
Mental retardation*	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Serious emotional disturbance	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.3
		White	<b>:</b>	
All disabilities listed	5.9	6.1	6.7	7.2
Specific learning disabilities	4.3	4.5	5.0	5.3
Mental retardation*	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.1
Serious emotional disturbance	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
		Black	(	
All disabilities listed	8.2	8.3	8.7	9.3
Specific learning disabilities	4.4	4.5	5.0	5.8
Mental retardation*	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.5
Serious emotional disturbance	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0
		Hispan	ic	
All disabilities listed	5.5	6.2	6.3	6.5
Specific learning disabilities	4.3	4.5	4.7	5.3
Mental retardation*	0.8	1.4	1.3	0.8
Serious emotional disturbance	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4

<sup>\*</sup> Includes all students classified with any level of mental retardation.

NOTE: The National Summaries from the Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Survey report includes data for the three disability categories shown. Therefore, the "All disabilities listed" category shown in this table includes only the following three categories: specific learning disabilities, mental retardation, and serious emotional disturbance. Prior to the 1987–88 school year, preschool disabled students were included in the counts by disabling condition. Beginning in the 1987–88 school year, states were no longer required to report preschool students (0–5 years) with disabilities by disabling condition.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, National Summaries from the Elementary and Secondary School Civil Rights Survey, various years.

Table 46-3 Percentage of public school children with disabilities who were served in various school environments, by type of disability and classroom environment: School years ending 1986–94

Type of disability	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
	Reg	jular clas	s/resourc	e room o	combine	d in regul	ar schoo	l building	j
All disabilities	69.0	69.2	69.0	69.6	69.2	69.3	71.2	71.5	72.9
Specific learning disabilities	77.8	76.8	76.7	77.5	76.8	76.2	78.8	78.7	80.4
Speech or language impairments	94.7	93.9	94.6	94.6	94.6	92.8	94.6	92.5	95.1
Mental retardation	28.8	29.8	29.2	28.0	26.5	30.4	30.5	33.9	34.7
Serious emotional disturbance	44.1	46.0	45.5	44.2	43.5	45.9	43.6	46.3	46.2
Hearing impairments	43.8	46.9	45.4	48.2	45.3	46.6	47.6	49.2	50.5
Orthopedic impairments	48.0	47.5	45.7	47.8	48.6	51.7	53.4	55.1	58.1
Other health impairments	47.6	59.0	51.5	50.3	53.4	57.8	62.9	67.4	67.1
Visual impairments	62.6	62.3	63.1	65.0	62.8	65.3	60.8	66.6	66.4
Multiple disabilities	20.6	24.3	20.1	21.4	20.5	23.8	24.3	26.7	28.8
Deaf-blindness	26.0	26.1	15.2	17.0	24.6	16.9	12.1	22.0	15.7
			Separate	class in	regular s	chool bu	ilding		
All disabilities	24.4	24.8	24.7	24.2	24.9	25.1	23.5	23.5	22.7
Specific learning disabilities	20.8	21.2	21.8	21.0	21.7	22.4	20.1	20.1	18.8
Speech or language impairments	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.8	3.8	5.6	3.9	6.0	4.5
Mental retardation	57.3	58.4	58.0	58.3	61.1	58.3	59.2	56.8	57.0
Serious emotional disturbance	36.1	36.8	34.5	35.8	37.1	35.8	36.9	35.2	35.3
Hearing impairments	32.5	32.9	35.1	33.4	31.7	32.8	31.3	28.1	30.6
Orthopedic impairments	31.0	33.4	32.0	33.7	34.7	33.1	34.4	34.1	33.3
Other health impairments	24.8	19.9	18.8	19.6	24.6	26.3	21.5	20.6	21.3
Visual impairments	19.2	21.9	21.0	20.6	21.1	19.9	19.6	18.0	18.3
Multiple disabilities	44.5	48.2	46.6	46.8	43.7	42.8	47.1	44.6	44.1
Deaf-blindness	22.2	37.5	36.9	29.6	29.9	32.0	36.5	31.4	34.2

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Renabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Table AB2.

Table 46-4 Percentage distribution of children who were served by federally supported programs for students with disabilities, by type of disability: School years ending 1977–95

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Type of disability	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	
All disabilities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Specific learning disabilities	21.6	25.7	29.1	31.9	35.3	38.6	40.9	42.0	42.5	43.1	
Speech or language impairments	35.3	32.6	31.2	29.6	28.2	27.0	26.6	26.2	26.1	26.1	
Mental retardation	26.0	24.9	23.2	21.7	20.0	18.7	17.8	16.9	16.1	15.3	
Serious emotional disturbance	7.7	7.7	7.7	8.2	8.4	8.1	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.7	
Hearing impairments	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	
Orthopedic impairments	2.4	2.3	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	
Other health impairments	3.8	3.6	2.7	2.6	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.6	1.3	
Visual impairments	1.0	0.9	8.0	8.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	
Multiple disabilities	_	_	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.6	2.0	
Deaf-blindness	_	_	0.1	U.U	0.1	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	
Preschool disabled	( )	(1)	(1)	(*)	(1)	(*)	(*)	(1)	(1)	(1)	

Type of disability	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
All disabilities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Specific learning disabilities	43.8	43.4	43.7	44.2	44.7	45.1	45.9	45.6	46.1
Speech or language impairments	26.0	21.4	21.3	21.0	20.7	20.1	19.4	18.9	18.8
Mental retardation	14.7	13.1	12.4	11.8	11.2	10.9	10.1	10.1	10.5
Serious emotional disturbance	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.9
Hearing impairments	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Orthopedic impairments	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1
Other health impairments	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.9
Visual impairments	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5
Multiple disabilities	2.2	1.7	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.6
Deaf-blindness	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U	U.U
Preschool disabled	$(\cdot)$	8.2	8.7	9.1	9.3	9.8	10.4	10.9	9.6

<sup>Not available.</sup> 

disabling condition. Beginning in the 1987-88 school year, states were no longer required to report preschool students (0-5 years) with disabilities by disabling condition.

NOTE: This analysis includes students who were served under Chapter 1 of the

ECIA and Part B of IDEA. Counts are based on reports from the 50 states and the District of Columbia only (i.e., figures from the U.S. territories are not included). Increases since 1987–88 are due in part to new legislation enacted in fall 1986, which mandates public school appropriate education services for all disabled children aged 3–5. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Tables AA1 and AA2; and National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 1996, Table 51.

Percents less than 0.05 are rounded to 0.0.

Includes preschool children aged 3-5 who were served under Chapter 1 of the Education Consolidation and Improvement

<sup>(</sup>ECIA) and those who were served under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA), respectively. Frior to the 1987–88 school year, preschool disabled students were included in the counts by type of

Revised from previously published figures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Data for 1995 are for children aged 3-21.

Table 46-5 Children who were served by federally supported programs for students with disabilities, as a percentage of public K-12 enrollment, by type of disability: School years ending 1977-95

Type of disability	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
All disabilities	8.3	8.6	9.1	9.6	10.1	10.5	10.8	10.9	11.0	11.0
Specific learning disabilities	1.8	2.2	2.7	3.1	3.6	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.7
Speech or language impairments	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Mental retardation	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.7
Serious emotional disturbance	0.6	0.7	0.7	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0
Hearing impairments	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Orthopedic impairments	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other health impairments	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Visual impairments	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Multiple disabilities	_	_	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Deaf-blindness	_	_	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪	⁻∪.∪
Preschool disabled.	(')	( )	( )	( )	()	()	()	()	( )	( )

Type of disability	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
All disabilities	11.0	11.1	11.3	11.4	11.6	11.8	12.0	12.2	12.3
Specific learning disabilities	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.7
Speech or language impairments	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
Mental retardation	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3
Serious emotional disturbance	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
Hearing impairments	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Orthopedic impairments	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other health impairments	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Visual impairments	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Multiple disabilities	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Deaf-blindness	U.U								
Preschool aisablea-	( )	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2

Not available.

relatively small number of prekindergarten students.

and Improvement Act (ECIA) and those aged 0–5 who were served under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education (IDEA), respectively.

Beginning in the 1987-88 school year, states were no longer required to report disabled preschool students (aged 0-5) by disabling condition.

NOTE: This analysis includes students who were served under Chapter 1 of the

ECIA and Part B of IDEA. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services,

Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Tables 1.3, A and AA2; and National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics, 1996, tables 3 and 51.

Based on the kindergarten through grade T2 enrollment in public schools including a

Percents less than 0.05 are rounded to 0.0.

includes preschool children aged 3-5 who were served under Chapter 1 of the Elementary Consolidation

Prior to the 1987-88 school year, preschool disabled students were included in the counts by disabling condition.

Revised from previously published figures.

<sup>\*</sup>Data for 1995 are for children aged 3-21.

Table 46-6 Ratio of the number of students with disabilities per special education teacher serving them, by type of disability: Selected school years ending 1977-94

Type of disability	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
All disabilities	21	19	19	18	18	18	18	16	16	16	16	16
Specific learning disabilities	18	18	18	17	17	19	21	23	22	23	24	26
Speech or language impairments	71	62	64	49	48	56	58	25	25	23	24	25
Mental retardation	14	12	13	13	12	12	13	13	12	12	12	13
Serious emotional disturbance	13	14	13	12	13	14	13	14	13	14	14	14
Hearing impairments	10	10	9	9	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	10
Orthopedic impairments	16	18	12	14	13	12	13	15	15	14	15	18
Other health impairments	28	26	21	21	31	22	16	19	19	27	30	35
Visual impairments	11	10	8	9	9	10	9	8	8	8	8	9
Multiple disabilities	_	_	_	15	13	13	12	11	13	13	13	14
Deaf-blindness	_	_	_	3	8	5	2	14	4	7	6	8

Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Renabilitative Services, Eighteenth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, table 1.9.